

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3619

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS1 DECLASS IMDETERMINATE

TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO, PBOR

SUBJ: HONDUJAN/SALVADORAN BORDER NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3785

1. SKMMARY - IN DESCRIBING ITS ANALYSIS CURRENT STATUS
HONDURAN/SALVADORAN BORDER NEGOTIATIONS,/ FOREIGN RELATIONS
SUBSEC CASTANEDA INFORMED ME
THAT ITS GOES PREVIOUS OPTIMISM HAS BEEN REEVALUATED IN LIGHT RECENT
FON MIN LEVEL TALKS IN MIAMI WHICH REVEALED THAT BOTH SIDES
HAD DIFFERENT IMPRESSIONS OF WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED TO. SIMILARLY,
TECHNICAL LEVEL ADVISORS ON BOTH SIDES CONTINUED HARBOR
SUSPICION AND DISTRUST OF OTHERS MOTIVES DESPITE TRUST AND RAPPORT
AT HIGHER LEVELS. NEW ROUTE, PERHAPS MEDIATION BY THIRD PARTY,
WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BE TRIED IF FUTURE IMPASSE TO BE AVOIDED.
HONDURAS FON MIN PROPOSED, AND GOES EXAMINING, POSSIBILITY OF
MEDIATOR. WE UNABLE EVALUATE LATEST GOES CLAIM THAT IT
HAS /NEW DOCUMENTS" WHICH BOLSTER ITS CLAIMS. END SUMMARY
2. I WAS INFORMEW IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE BY SUB-SECRETARY FOREIGN
RELATIONS CASTANEDA ON SEPT 9 OF WHAT FOREIGN MINISTRY BELIEVES TO
BE PRESENT STATUS GOES-GOH BORDER NEGOTIATIONS. FOLLOWING IS
RESUME (PLEASE PROTECT CONFIDENCE)

3. CASTANEDA CHARACTERIZED SALVADORANS AS "OPTIMISTIC" AFTER
LAST ROUND TECHNICAL LEVEL TALKS IN GUATEMALA. APPARENTLY,
ACCORDING CASTANEDA, HONDURANS LEFT THOSE TALKS CONSIDERABLY
LESS THAN OPTIMISTIC. TO ASCERTAIN WHAT WAS EXACT STATUS
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NEGOTIATIONS, FON MIN BORGOONOVO, ACCOMPANIED BY DR JOSE

ANTONIO RODRIGUEZ PORTH (FONMIN LAWYER) AND DR REYNALDO GALINDO POHL (GOES REP UN), WENT TO MIAMI WEEKEND OF AUG 31-SEPT 1 TO REVIEW STATUS WITH HONDURAN FONMIN BATRES, AT LATTER'S REQUEST. AT MIAMI MEETING, BATRES DESCRIBED GOH "DISAPPOINTMENT" WITH RESULTS OF TECHNICAL MEETING, ESPECIALLY WITH GOES INTRODUCTION OF CLAIM OF QTE NEW DOCUMENTS UNQTE WHICH SUPPOSEDLY PROVE SALVADORAN HISTORIC CLAIM OVER GREAT CHUNKS OF HONDURAN TERRITORY.

4. WHAT APPARENTLY HAPPENING IS THAT, DESPITE CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE AND TRUST ON BOTH SIDES, AT CHIEF OF STATE AND FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL, THERE REMAINK CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF SUSPICION OF EACH OTHER'S MOTIVES AT TECHNICAL LEVEL. THESE TECHNICIANS ON GOES SIDE, ARGUING THAT PRESENT TALKS MIGHT COLLAPSE AND GOES IN FUTURE MIGHT HAVE TO PRESENT ITS CASE IN JURIDICAL FORUM WHEN IT WOULD BE BEST TO HAVE AN ACE IN THE HOLE, I.E., THE "NEW DOCUMENTS," RECOMMEND AGAINST REVEALING FULL HAND AT THIS TIME. CASTANEDA SAID THAT PRESIDENT MOLINA IS NOT YET READY TO GO AHEAD AGAINST THE ADVICE OF THESE TECHNIAL LEVEL TYPES SINCE FIRST, HE ADMIRES THEM AS ADVISORS AND UNWILLING DISREGARD THEIR OBJECTIONS OUT OF HAND, AND SECOND, HE FEARS THEY MIGHT, IF PROVOKED, GO PUBLIC AND DENOUNCE ANY AGREEMENT AS SELL-OUT.

5. SIMILARLY ON HONDURAN SIDE, ACCORDING TO SALVADORAN INTERPRETATION, TECHNICAL LEVEL PERSONS ARE VERY SUSPICIOUS OF EL SALVADOR'S MOTIVES AND ACTIONS AT EARLIER TALKS AND ASSUME EL JALVADOR STRATEGY IS TO EAT UP TIME BETWEEN NOW AND NOVEMBER, WHEN EL SALVADOR OBLIGATION IN PACT OF BOGOTA ENDS, WITH MEANINGLESS DISCUSSIONS.

6. CASTANEDA CLAIMED BOTH GOVERNMENTS RECOGNIZE OTHER'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS.

7. CASTANEDA SAID THAT GOES HAD LEFT EARLIER BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS THINKING THAT BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED TO SETTLE BORDER QUESION ON BASIS OF BOTH DOCUMENTS AND RPT AND PHYSICAL OCCUPANY. THIS WOULD REPRESENT BOTH SIDES GIVING A BIT FROM PREVIOUS ADAMANT STANDS, THE HONDURANS INSISTING DOCUMENTS AND EL SALVADOR CLAIMING PHYSICAL POSSESSION BEING ONLY BASIS SETTLEMENT. THE CONFIDENTIAL

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GOES BELIEVES THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP WOULD BE A PHYSICAL SURVAY OF THE BORDER. ACCORDING TO CASTANEDA, HONDURAS REVEALED AT MOST RECENT MIAMI FON MIN MEETING THAT IT FELT IT HAD NOT BEEN SATISFIED IN PREVIOUS DICUSSIONS IN GUATEMALA AND WAS NOT RPT NOT NOW PREPARED TO GO AHEAD ON BASIS BOTH DOCUMENTS AND PHYSICAL OCCUPANCY.

8. WITHOUT REVEALING ACTUAL CONTENTS DISCUSSION, CASTANEDA ADMITTED THAT PREVIOUS GOES OPTIMISM WAS NOW SEEN AS EXAGGERATED AND THAT NEW ROAD WOULD HAVE TO BE FOUND TO AVOID IMPASSE IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDING CASTANEDA, BATRES INDICATED THAT HONDURAS MIGHT BE WILLING GIVE UP CERTAIN TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, BUT NOT RPT NOT BY BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS POUTE. BATRES INDICATED THAT THIRD PARTY WOULD HAVE TO ENTER BEFORE HONDURAS COULD ACCEPT SUCH CEDING OF TERRITORY PREVIODPFH CLAIMED. BATRES INDICATED, CASTANEDA SAID, HE WILLING TO CONSIDER MEDIATION (SEE REFTEL PARA 2), AS LAST RESORT TO KEEP NEGOTAITIONS GOING.

9. ACCORDING CASTANEDA, GOES AGREED TO STUDY THOSE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH IT MIGHT ACCEPT SERVICES OF MEDIATOR. BORGONOVO STIPULATED THAT GOES WILL LOOK AT SUGGESTION BUT ONLY ON CONDITION THAT SUCH A MEDIATOR NOT CONFINE HIMSELF TO BOUNDARY ISSUE ALONE, BUT BE ENPOWERED TO EXAMINE ALL OUTSTANDING ISSUES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. CASTANEDA SAID THAT GOES NOW EXAMINING MEDIATOR CONCEPT AND EXPECTS TO HAVE ANSWER FOR HONDURAS BY THIS THURSDAY, OR WEEKEND AT LATEST. BOTH SIDES APPARENTLY WILLING TO REGROUP THEN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS IN MIAMI AREA.

10. COMMENT: GOES DESCRIPTION OF RECENT TALKS AND PRESENT STATUS CONFORMS WITH MOST EVERYTHING FROM HONDURAN SIDE OUTLINED REFTEL. ONE ASPECT OF GOES STRATEGY WHICH EMBASSY AT THIS POINT UNABLE TO EVALUATE IS WHETHER OR NOT CLAIMED "NEW DOCUMENTS" EXIST OR IF THEY DO, WHAT THEY CONTAIN. IF CERTAINLY WITHIN REALM OF POSSIBILITY THAT GOEJ, CLOBBBERED FOR SO LONG BY HONDURAN INSISTANCE TO "GO TO THE DOCUMENTS," HAVE PUT FORWARD CLAIM OF DOCUMENTORY COUNTERPROOFS IN EFFORT TO MAKE HONDURANS RECONSIDER THIS SINGLE AVENUE. WHETHER IN FACT SALVADORANS HAVE "NEW DOCUMENTS" OR ARE TRYING TO BLUFF, FOR INSTANCE WITH RECENT CONFIDENTIAL

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BORGONOVO BOAST THAT DOCUMENTS EXIST THAT WOULD GIVE EL SALVADOR CLAIM TO ENTIRE HONDURAN DEPARTMENT OF EL VALLE, THE THREAT OBVIOUSLY SHOULD MAKE HONDURAS HESITATE, IN SOME DEGREE, IN PUSH TO RELY EXCLUSIVELY ON DOCUMENTS STRATEGY. MOSKOWITZ

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